

forward in every way the interests of science. Of such men we have too few, and his death leaves us with a sense of irreparable loss.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

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We also regret to learn of the recent death of Mr. WILLIAM BREWSTER of Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., a Founder of the American Ornithologists' Union and one of the best known of American ornithologists. We hope to have a notice of him in the next number of 'The Ibis.'

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#### XXXIV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

##### *An A. B. C. of Common Birds.*

[An A. B. C. of Common Birds. A pocket guide to the commoner inland Birds of Britain. Pp. 1-64. Price 6d., by post 7d. Published by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 23 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.]

This little work in pamphlet form has recently been issued by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and will doubtless be found very useful. The commoner British birds are arranged in alphabetical order, and with each is given a few words of description to assist in identification. The brief notes on the food-habits are arranged under "pro." or "con.," according to whether the birds may be regarded useful or injurious to the farmer or gardener. In many cases a quotation from a recognized authority on the relation of birds to agriculture has been added. Only in the case of three or four birds is the general verdict unfavourable, and in these cases it is owing to their excessive numbers. We notice that very little is said about the merits or otherwise of the Little Owl, on which there has lately been a good deal of correspondence in the 'Times.' The Starling, Sparrow-Hawk, Wood-Pigeon, and Hawfinch all come in for a certain amount of condemnation. On the whole a very just balance is maintained, and we hope that

the A. B. C. of Common Birds will have a wide circulation and help to the preservation of British Bird-life.

*Bangs on a new bird from the Philippines.*

[A new Striated Warbler from the Philippines. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New England Zoölogical Club, vii. 1919, pp. 5-6.]

In a short note Mr. Bangs distinguishes *Megalurus palustris forbesi*, subsp. n., from Luzon and probably the other islands of the Philippine group, from the typical *M. p. palustris* from Java, by its smaller size and greyer coloration.

*Bangs and Penard on the Lafresnaye types.*

[Some critical notes on birds. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. lxiii. 1919, pp. 21-40.]

The Lafresnaye collection of birds, containing most of the types described by that ornithologist in the early part of the last century, has recently been handed over to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., by the Boston Society of Natural History. It is the intention of the authors to publish an account of the collection, its types, and a sketch of Lafresnaye's life; but in the meantime we have here a number of random notes, mostly changes in nomenclature and descriptions of new forms, noticed when identifying Lafresnaye's types.

We have not space here to mention the various changes proposed, but we notice new forms of *Herpetotheres*, *Eupsittula*, *Picolaptes*, *Saltator*, and many other genera chiefly from South America; a new genus *Cnemoscopus* is proposed for *Arremon rubrirostris* Lafres., and *Tachuris* Lafres. 1836 must replace *Cyanotis* Swains. 1837.

*Campbell on Australian Birds and Nomenclature.*

[Notes on Birds from the Gouldian-Gilbert Type-locality, North Australia. By A. J. Campbell. The Emu, xviii. 1919, pp. 172-210.]

The birds collected by McLennan for Mr. H. L. White

in the lands where Gilbert collected for Gould, having now come into the possession of the National Museum at Melbourne, the author of this paper—for long an authority on Australian Ornithology—takes the opportunity to institute a comparison with the species obtained by Gilbert and to comment on their nomenclature.

That collector's head-quarters were at the present Port Essington (then styled Victoria), whereas M<sup>c</sup>Lennan had his main camp eighty miles away at King River; but the character of the whole district is so uniform that it may all be considered as one collecting-ground, and is in fact almost precisely similar to that round Napier and Broome Bay in West Australia. It is therefore no matter for astonishment that some species or subspecies are identical in the two areas, while we are impressed with the necessity of taking more than usual care in differentiating forms on the grounds of slight variation in the colour.

The two explorers observed nearly the same birds, though M<sup>c</sup>Lennan added *Plilotis albitinctus* to the Australian list; and Mr. Campbell rightly considers this to be a fitting time to come to a primary agreement as to the nomenclature pending further expeditions and further discoveries.

He therefore discusses each bird separately, and in particular the races it has been proposed by Mr. Mathews and others to differentiate. We cannot here give in detail the cases where the two writers are in agreement and where they are not; but must satisfy ourselves with commending the whole article to the attention of our readers, in view of the lead that it gives to the proper determination of many points of importance with regard to a distant and partially worked country.

Two points remain to be noticed—first, that in some eight or more cases the Gouldian-Gilbert type-locality was not Port Essington, but “North-west Coast of Australia”; secondly, that Mr. Campbell once more emphasizes the importance of maintaining Gould's names if scientifically correct. This no doubt is much to be desired, and none of them should be thrown aside without most careful

examination; but we are afraid that ideas differ widely as to the meaning of the term "scientific correctness," and in proof can only refer to the speeches at the R.A.O.U. meeting ('The Emu,' xviii. pp. 144-147). Mr. Campbell also talks of the "International Code" and the views of various persons on it, but they evidently do not refer to the Ornithological Code.

*E. C. Chubb on the Dodo.*

[A skeleton of the Dodo (*Didus ineptus*). By E. C. Chubb. Annals Durban Museum, ii. 1919, pp. 97-99, pl. xvii.; 1 text-fig.]

[The Dodo. Leaflet No. 1. Durban Museum, pp. 1-4; 2 figs. 1919.]

The Durban Museum has recently acquired a very complete mounted skeleton of the Dodo. It was formerly in the possession of the late Mr. E. Therioux of Mauritius, and is of special interest as it possesses the caudal vertebrae and pygostyle complete, a rib on the second pelvic vertebra, and certain carpal bones in the wing not hitherto found on any existing skeleton or described.

Mr. E. C. Chubb writes a short description of these bones and illustrates his notice with a photograph which, however, is hardly sufficiently large or clear to be of much use.

The leaflet, also by Mr. Chubb, provides a short popular history of the Dodo, and contains a reproduction of one of Savery's pictures of the bird, and is prepared for the benefit of visitors to the Durban Museum.

*Gladstone on the war and bird-life.*

[Birds and the War. By Hugh S. Gladstone. London (Skeffington), 1919. 8vo.]

In this little volume Mr. Gladstone has brought together a mass of information relating—as the title tells us—to birds and the war. We learn from the preface that the book is compiled from "a large collection of cuttings," and although certain recognized authorities are quoted, yet the major part of the information here collated appeared anonymously in newspapers. As Mr. Gladstone has made such ample use of these anonymous writings, it seems a

pity that he has refrained from criticism of what appear occasionally to be highly coloured statements. The fact that "cuttings" from the 'Daily Mail' and other daily papers have been reprinted in book-form by a recognized ornithologist, gives more weight to them than many of them deserve.

Section one of the first chapter deals almost entirely with the Homing Pigeon Service during the war and will be read with considerable interest. The feats of endurance accomplished by these wonderful birds deserves wide recognition and admiration. Some of us cannot fail to deplore the loss to Great Britain of so many of our best strains of Homers by their disposal in France and Belgium at the end of the operations. Mention is made of the various uses—some ingenious, others very "far fetched"—to which birds were put to detect the presence of the enemy or of poison gas in the various theatres of war.

In the second section Mr. Gladstone has brought together an amount of evidence in support of our British Birds as crop-protectors, and shows how the indiscriminate destruction of many species valuable to agriculture resulted in a terrible scourge of caterpillars in various parts of the country.

In the third and fourth sections, the author gives us a review of the various measures introduced by the Ministry of Food to increase the food-supply, by utilising various wild birds' eggs and by alteration to an earlier date of the commencement of game-shooting seasons. There is a chapter on the sufferings of birds during the war—on land where the abnormally severe weather accounted for many deaths, and at sea where the oil from tank-steamers and submarines is said to have destroyed hundreds of sea birds, the oil matting the feathers of Razorbills and Guillemots, thus preventing them diving for food. A special section is devoted to the effect of aircraft and air-raids on the bird population.

In sections 8 and 9 the author deals with the behaviour of birds in the war zones, and in this chapter Mr. Gladstone



gives us an interesting and connected account of the observations of numerous field-naturalists made chiefly on the western front. The remarkable indifference of almost all the birds to heavy bombardment, and even to poison-gas, is the principal fact brought out in these chapters. In face of this, the statement made by a French naturalist (quoted in Chapter iv.) that migrating birds departed from their usual routes seems a little surprising. The birds in northern Europe could hardly have known what was taking place in the narrow strip of territory where the guns were booming and over which they were wont to pass on their journey south. If the migratory movement coincided with a terrific bombardment, the tendency of the birds would surely be to mount to a higher altitude as they approached the danger zone, and thus to cross the lines unobserved, probably at night. The reviewer passed 28 consecutive months on the lines of communication in France and Flanders, and allowing for his limited opportunities of bird-observation, he formed the opinion that ordinary migration was little interfered with.

In the last section of this little book, a tribute is paid to those ornithologists who gave their lives in the service of the country.

“Birds and the War” contains much interesting information which it must have cost the author considerable time and patience to compile and produce in such a readable form.

D. A. B.

*Misses Haviland and Pitt on habits of the Song-Thrush.*

[The selection of *Helix nemoralis* by the Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*). By Maud D. Haviland and Frances Pitt. *Ann. Mag. N. H.* (9) iii. 1919, pp. 525-531.]

The habit of the Song-Thrush of breaking the shells of snails on a stone or “anvil” is well known, and it had been suggested by Mr. A. E. Truman in a previous paper that in the case of the very variably coloured *Helix nemoralis*, Song-Thrushes might exercise a selective action as the more conspicuous or more palatable varieties would be most generally taken. Miss Haviland made two series of experiments—

in the one case tethering snails to pegs in a piece of open ground and listing those which were taken by the Thrushes, and in the other case counting and sorting the shells found at certain anvils, with the idea of discovering whether one particular variation of *Helix nemoralis* was preferred to another.

Miss Pitt's experiments were done with a young Thrush hand-reared from the nest, in order to find out if the "anvil-habit" was instinctive or acquired.

The conclusions were reached that the selection of snails by Thrushes is entirely haphazard, but that many-banded varieties of *H. nemoralis* were more abundant in shady bushy places while Thrushes preferred more open feeding-grounds, so that there was a higher proportion of unbanded shells at certain "anvils." Miss Pitt concluded that the young thrush does not recognize and crack snail-shells instinctively, but each individual learns to do so by personal experience.

#### *Mathews' Birds of Australia.*

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. vii. pt. v. pp. 385-500+i-xii, pls. 363-370. London (Witherby), July 1919. 4to.]

Possibly the most important information in this part will be, to most ornithologists, that contained in the two Appendices, one giving a list of works containing "all the new names," and the other consisting of a dissertation on the dates of a large number of ornithological treatises. So important are the items in the latter that, in our opinion, they are quite out of place in this book, and should have been published separately. As it is, they will probably be overlooked by those not specially concerned with Australian Birds, and the object of Mr. Mathews' careful compilation will thus not be attained. Otherwise we have nothing but praise for his perseverance and energy in the matter.

With regard to the preface to the volume, we quite agree that much controversial matter has been under discussion, but we are not so confident as the author that

nomenclature is tending to stability. He must not forget that Ornithology is but one branch of Zoology, and that no settlement will finally stand that is not pretty generally accepted.

Among the accounts of the different species, it should be noted that *Polophilus* is accepted instead of *Centropus* for the Australian Coucal. A new subspecies *melvillensis* is proposed (from Melville Island), and *macrourus* is taken to cover *keatsi*.

The volume finishes with the Lyre-Birds, equally wonderful in their appearance and habits. This curious Order is left in its usual place and precedes the Passeriform Birds; but it is only fair to Mr. Mathews to say that he dissents to this position, and thinks that the resemblances may be due to convergence, and not to affinity. To those who take this view, the difficulty at once arises of explaining the bird's powers of song. *Atrichia*, of course, presents difficulties also, but is, in this work, to be taken later, as a degenerate Passerine form.

A separate genus is allotted to each species of *Menura*, for the specific title *novæ-hollandiæ* is made to cover three subspecies from New South Wales and Victoria, so that only the northernmost form *alberti* stands apart, in the genus *Harriwhitea* of Mr. Mathews' 1912 List. The male has no long curved outer rectrix, as may be seen from the plate given, another plate shewing the tails in the genus *Menura*. A subspecies *rufa* is still recognised.

*Globicera pacifica queenslandica* and *Psephotellus chrysopterygius nova* are now figured as new and extremely rare forms from northern Queensland, and several notes added. In these *Taristockia* is proposed for *Loxia guttata* Shaw; but here the details must be consulted by the reader interested in *Steganopleura* forms.

Finally, three more Procellariiform birds, *Reinholdia reinholdi*, *Pterodroma inexpectata*, and *Diomedea chionoptera*, are figured, with information from sources later than the publication of Vol. ii.,—the first because the specimen



depicted in that volume was from New Zealand, whereas that now given was shot in Australia. Mr. Mathews takes the opportunity to criticise severely the recent work of the American author Loomis on the Order, and his paragraphs will enable other writers to judge for themselves between the combatants and of the correctness or otherwise of their views, a point which it is not for us to decide. Mr. Murphy's work is held up as a contrast and for approval.

*Riley on new birds from the Far East.*

[Six new birds from Celebes and Java. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 32, 1919, pp. 93-96.]

In a collection of birds made in Celebes by Mr. H. C. Raven, Mr. Riley finds the following new forms:—*Anas superciliosa perena*, *Megalurus celebensis*, *Dicruropsis montana*, *Pachycephala pluviosa*, *Zosterops atrifrons surda*; also a Quail from Java is named *Excalfactoria chinensis palmeri*.

*Stone on the Birds of Panama.*

[Birds of the Panama Canal Zone, with special reference to a collection made by Mr. Lindsey L. Jewel. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1918, pp. 239-280.]

The late Mr. L. L. Jewel spent some three years from 1910 onwards in the Panama Canal zone, where he was engaged in engineering work, and made very considerable collections of birds; part of these are now in the American Museum at New York, but the greater portion are in the Museum of the Academy at Philadelphia. Mr. W. Stone has prepared a list of the Jewel collection, which is here published with the collector's field-notes, and has added the names of the other species previously recorded from the canal-zone, but not obtained by Mr. Jewel.

In a good many instances the nests and eggs are described by Mr. Jewel, and there are some additional taxonomic notes by Mr. Stone, but no new forms are described.

The total number of species and subspecies listed reaches 432.

*Kirke Swann on the Birds of Prey.*

[A synoptical list of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey). Part I. (*Sarcorhamphus* to *Accipiter*). Comprising species and subspecies described up to 1914, with their characters and distribution. By H. Kirke Swann, F.Z.S. Pp. 1-38. London (Wheldon), 1919. 8vo.]

So far as we are aware no complete revision of the Accipitres has been attempted since the publication in 1874 of the first volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe. A vast amount of additional information on the subject of the Birds of Prey is to be found in the long series of critical papers on Dr. Sharpe's volume by the late Mr. John Henry Gurney, published in the volumes of 'The Ibis' between 1875 and 1882; and in his Hand-list published in 1899 Dr. Sharpe brought the list up to date by incorporating the recently described species. There is therefore ample excuse for the publication of this little work by Mr. Swann.

As regards classification the Hand-list is followed, and the present instalment contains the Condors, the Old World Vultures, the Polyborinæ, and the Accipitrinæ. Short diagnostic characters are given, but we fear they will not be found sufficient to identify unknown forms of Hawks, so varied and complicated are the plumage-changes in this group.

It is to be regretted too that Mr. Swann has not given full references to the genera and a determination of the types, which is so necessary for successful systematic work.

Mr. Swann has rightly, under the rules of nomenclature, discarded the use of the generic name *Vultur* for the Cinereous Vulture in favour of *Ægyptius*; but surely it is impossible to ignore the use of the former name altogether, and there can be no doubt that, if the rules be adhered to, the genus *Vultur* must go to the South American Condor. The alternative is either to keep *Vultur* for the Old World species to which it has been traditionally attached as a *nomen conservandum*, or boldly follow the rules and transfer it to the Condor. Again, the genus *Catharista* is undoubtedly an absolute synonym of *Cathartes*, as both are

founded on the same type. *Catharista* as used by Sharpe and our author should be replaced by *Coragyps*.

There are several other errors in generic nomenclature which we could point out:—*Pseudogryphus* Ridgw. 1874 is antedated by *Gymnogyps* Lesson 1842; *Serpentarius* Cuv. 1798 by *Sagittarius* Herman 1783; *Polyborides* Smith by *Gymnogenys* Lesson; *Torgos* Kaup is spelt *Jorgos*.

The list of described species appears to have been most carefully compiled and will doubtless be most useful to all workers in systematic ornithology, and we shall look forward with interest to see the completion of the work.

### *British Birds.*

[British Birds, with which is incorporated 'The Zoologist.' Vol. xii. June 1918–May 1919.]

Owing to the absence of Mr. Witherby at Dunkerque, where he was serving with the naval forces during the latter part of the year, the last volume of 'British Birds' was edited by Mr. Jourdain. It contains many contributions of permanent value, among which should be noted the four concluding parts of Miss Jackson's "Moult and sequence of plumages of the British Waders"; our only regret is that Miss Jackson has not extended her observations beyond the narrow limits of the British list, as it is only by doing so that valuable general conclusions can be reached.

A novel observation by Mr. D. Macintyre is that the Curlew when shedding the lining of the gizzard also gets rid of the grit contained in it at the same time. Other birds get rid of the gizzard grit periodically in their castings or their droppings, and there seems a good deal of variation in this respect.

The chief nesting-place of the Great Skua in the British Isles has long been known to be on certain islands of the Shetland group. Through the observations of some naval officers attached to the Grand Fleet, the known breeding-range of this interesting bird has now been extended to a locality in the Orkneys as well. Mr. Jourdain, who writes on the matter from information transmitted to him, wisely

exercises a good deal of reticence in exact locality and other matters.

Of illustrated articles we have a further instalment of Mr. J. H. Owen's beautiful photographs of the Sparrow-Hawk and its nest and young, accompanied by some good field observations; also some notes on the nidification of the Bullfinch by Miss F. Pitt, illustrated by three reproductions of her excellent photographs.

Of articles connected with the various battle fronts, there are those of Surgeon J. M. Harrison, R.N., on Macedonia; of Miss Haviland on autumn migration near Odessa; of Mr. E. A. Wallis on birds observed in the Yonne department in France, where he specially comments on the abundance of small birds such as Warblers but the comparative rarity of Thrushes and Blackbirds, while the Little Bustard was found to be surprisingly tame and approachable.

There are also articles by Capt. A. de C. Sowerby on the Birds of the Battlefields, and by Capt. W. S. Medlicott on those of the western front of the Pas de Calais department. Finally, we have the observations of Mr. Witherby himself in the neighbourhood of Dunkerque—a somewhat disappointing locality, though the Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers were both found nesting on the same ground close to the town.

Of marked-bird recoveries the most interesting are the following:—Wigeon marked Alnwick Aug. 1915, reported Denmark autumn 1917; Lapwing marked Warwickshire June 1911, reported S. Spain Jan. 1918; Lesser Black-backed Gull marked Westmoreland June 1913, reported Portugal Jan. 1918.

#### *Canadian Field-Naturalist.*

[The Canadian Field-Naturalist. Published by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Vol. xxxiii. no. 1. April 1919.]

We welcome the first number of an old journal under a new name. The 'Ottawa Naturalist' first appeared in 1884 and had reached its thirty-second volume. The name has

now been changed to the 'Canadian Field-Naturalist' to reflect its widened sphere of influence. It will in future be accepted not only as the organ of the Ottawa Society but of other similar natural history societies throughout the Dominion of Canada.

The present number contains some account of the birds observed in the northern part of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba by Prof. O'Donoghue and Mr. J. N. Gowanlock. Here on a small island was found a breeding colony of Caspian Terns, and an example of the Parasitic Jaeger (or as it is generally called in England, Richardson's Skua) was secured. Both these birds were previously unknown in Manitoba.

Mr. P. A. Taverner concludes his account of the birds of Shoal Lake, Manitoba, where 211 species in all have been observed. There are also other articles of interest in other departments of Natural History contained in the present number.

### *The Emu.*

[The Emu. Official organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. xviii. pts. 1-4. July 1918-April 1919.]

The last volume of the 'Emu' shows the continued prosperity of the R. A. O. U., consisting as it does of over 300 pages and fifty plates, four of which are coloured. These, which are reproduced from colour-photographs, represent *Erythrura trichoa macgillivrayi* recently described from northern Queensland; *Amytornis striata* Gould, of which a good many subspecies have been recognized by Mr. Mathews, but which Mr. Campbell, who writes the accompanying letterpress, proposes to reduce to two. In the third part the frontispiece is a coloured plate of the Letter-winged Kite (*Elanus scriptus*), of which Mr. H. L. White has recently secured a good series of skins and eggs for the "H. L. White" collection in the National Museum at Melbourne. The birds were found nesting on the Diamantina river in a remote district of the interior of Queensland, and Mr. Jackson,



who was sent by Mr. White to obtain the eggs and skins, made a most successful expedition to this out-of-the-way spot by motor-car and gives an interesting account of his own adventures and of the habits of the Kites, which nest in small companies in Eucalyptus trees bordering the creeks.

Dr. Shufeldt contributes a long account, illustrated by seven plates from photographs taken by himself, of the osteology of *Nestor*, the Kea Parrot of New Zealand. He is of opinion from his studies of the skeleton, that the creation of a special family, Nestoridae, for this peculiar type is well justified by osteological characters as well as by the structure of the soft parts, which have chiefly been relied on by former investigators.

Mr. W. B. Alexander and Dr. B. Nicholls have carefully gone into the subject of the racial forms of the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) in Australia. Mr. Mathews and others have recognized three of these races. An examination of a large series of birds of different ages and stages of plumage from different localities bring the authors to the conclusion that there is only one Australian race, which should be called *Eudyptula minor novæhollandiæ*.

In an article by Mr. G. M. Mathews it is pointed out that a considerable number of the Petrels included by him in his 'Birds of Australia' are so recorded on insufficient evidence, often resting on vague statements by Gould or sometimes on wrongly identified material, or material of doubtful origin. A list of these cases is given in the hope that more attention will be paid to this group by Australian observers.

Of new forms described we only notice three—*Hylacola pyrrhopygia magna* Howe from the interior of New South Wales, *Malurus cyanotus diamantina* H. L. White from western Queensland, and *Acanthiza nana dawsoniana* H. L. White from central Queensland.

Field-notes and lists of species observed in all parts of Australia are numerous: among them, Miss Fletcher writes on Tasmania, Capt. S. A. White on the Murray river and on the Nullabor plains of South Australia, Mr. J. B. Clelland

on Pilliga Scrub in New South Wales, and Mr. F. L. Whitlock on the birds of the Dampier archipelago on the north-west coast of Western Australia.

Mr. A. J. Campbell's contributions to the present volume are noticed separately.

### *Le Gerfaut.*

[*Le Gerfaut.* Revue belge d'Ornithologie. Publiée sous la direction de M. Marcel de Coutreras. Bruxelles. 5<sup>e</sup>-9<sup>e</sup> Années. Fasc. i. et ii. 1919.]

'Le Gerfaut' (the Gyrfalcon) was established in Belgium about three years before the outbreak of the war and was published as the official organ of several ornithological societies then existing in Belgium. A notice of it appeared in 'The Ibis' for 1914 (p. 345). Under the German occupation it ceased publication. It has now been revived under its former editor, M. Marcel de Coutreras, though it no longer has any official connection with the Belgian ornithological societies. Two numbers have already appeared, and we must congratulate the editor and his supporters on their enterprise and devotion to our favourite study.

The first number opens with a notice of M. A. Sacré, to whom Belgium owes a great debt for his promotion of ornithology. He died in July 1917 at Brussels at the age of 60, and was the practical founder of 'Le Gerfaut.' His collections of nests and eggs of Belgian birds have been added to the Royal Museum of Natural History in Brussels.

An article by M. G. van Havre deals with *Buteo buteo zimmermannæ*, an example of which was taken at Wyneghem near Bruges so long ago as 1861 by the father of the present author, but has only recently been recognized as referable to this recently described form. Two examples were also obtained at Delden in Holland in 1902 and 1903, and are in the collection of Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg. The status of the Buzzards of Europe and their inter-relationship do not appear to be yet by any means satisfactorily settled, and we believe that more material must be studied before any final decision can be arrived at.

Another remarkable bird described and figured in a coloured plate in the second number of the magazine is a Gull, obtained some years ago by M. F. Massange on the Belgian coast near Blankenberghe. It is identified by M. de Contreras as an example of *Larus fuliginosus* Gould, a species believed to be confined to the Galapagos Islands and never, so far as we are aware, noticed in the Atlantic or in the Old World. This specimen is now preserved in the Brussels Museum, and we believe that a "second opinion" on the identification should be taken before finally accepting the occurrence of a species in Europe so far removed from its known habitat.

Other articles in the second number by M. G. van Havre deal with the occurrence of the Black-bellied Dipper (*Cinclus c. cinclus*) in Belgium, and of a review of events of ornithological interest in Belgium during the five years of war, and of the effects of the war and the German occupation on bird-life.

#### *South Australian Ornithologist.*

[The South Australian Ornithologist. A Magazine of Ornithology. Vol. iii. for 1917 & 1918; 8 parts.]

The ornithologists of South Australia continue the quarterly issue of their magazine with great regularity. It is chiefly concerned with observations and field-notes on the birds of South Australia, and is therefore mainly of local interest.

The excellent plan of giving in each number a full description, with an account of habits and distribution, of a single selected member of the South Australian avifauna is continued, but it will we fear take a good many years before the series is complete. Capt. S. A. White continues his account of the life of his father Mr. Samuel White, a pioneer of ornithological exploration in many parts of Australia and Papuaasia, the friend and correspondent of Gould. Mr. White died at Sydney in 1880, soon after his return from an adventurous voyage to the Arru Islands in search of the Greater Bird of Paradise, and the chapters

in the present volume deal with this particular journey. Another article of general interest is edited by Mr. G. M. Mathews from the field-notes of Capt. Bowyer-Bower, who collected on the Fitzroy river in north-western Australia in the eighties and died at Port Darwin in 1887. Most of his collections were presented to the British Museum by his father.

Another article by Mr. A. M. Morgan, one of the editors, deals with birds of the river Murray and of Port Broughton on Spencer gulf; while Capt. White writes on an expedition he recently made to the Coorong, a curious long narrow lagoon shut off from the sea by a narrow sand dune, in search of the Bristle-bird (*Maccoyornis broadbenti whitei*), recently described by Mr. Mathews, of which he obtained six examples. Another trip to the same place was made by Capt. White to inspect the breeding-grounds of the Swan and the Pelican, which are now, thanks to the efforts of the South Australian Ornithological Association, protected from destruction, and where there is now a government caretaker in charge.

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*List of other Ornithological Publications received.*

- DABBENE, R. Las especies y subespecies Argentinas de los géneros, *Geositta* y *Cinclodes*. (An. Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires, xxx. p. 113.)
- KURODA, N. On the Migration of some Waders, etc. (Japanese.) 1919.
- Archivum Melitense. (Vol. iii. nos. 8-12.)
- Auk. (Vol. xxxvi. no. 3.)
- Avicultural Magazine. (Vol. x. nos. 9-11.)
- Bird-Lore. (Vol. xxi. nos. 3-4.)
- Bird-Notes. (Vol. ii. nos. 5-8.)
- British Birds. (Vol. xiii. nos. 2-4.)
- Condor. (Vol. xxi. nos. 3-4), and Index to vols. xi.-xx.
- Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. (Vol. xxvi. no. 2.)
- Journal of the Fed. Malay States Museums. (Vol. viii. pt. iii.)
- Revue Française d'Ornithologie. (Nos. 121-123.)
- Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 91-92.)
- South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. iv. nos. 1-2.)
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